2009 BRULE RIVER FALL FISHWAY UPDATE

A total of 12,206 trout and salmon were estimated migrating upstream through the lamprey barrier/fishway during the fall review period from July 6 through December 3. The steelhead run consisted of 8,130 fish with the peak occurring late September through early October. This was one of the better fall returns in the past decade and was a surprise considering all the reports of poor fishing success. Seventy percent of the run was comprised of repeat spawners, which accounted for an impressive size structure. The brown trout run totaled 2,809 fish with its peak corresponding with the first significant rainfall event during the week of August 16. Last fall's return was similar to the past five years, but considerably reduced from peak years. Although the cause of this decline is unknown, we suspect that it is likely due to a change in the near shore forage community of Lake Superior. Coho have been similarly impacted with 1,172 passing upstream, though the average size of the fish returning was significantly above average. Other salmonids counted include 85 chinook salmon, 7 pink salmon, 1 coastal brook trout, 1 splake and 1 lake trout.

Year	Brown Trout	Chinook Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead Fall	Steelhead Spring	Steelhead Total	Estimated Stocked Steelhead
2006-07	3167	199	1951	7290	1582	8872	710
2007-08	3317	314	1765	6345	1215	7560	278
· 2008-09	2890	248	2197	6640	1096	7736	137
2009-10	2809	85	1172	8130			75

STEELHEAD





